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The Athenian Mercury.

Saturday, *November* 24. 1694.

Queſt. 1. *I Am ſometimes in company with honeſt* young women, *and* kiſs *'em in a Frolick, as others uſe to do. Qu. Whether 'tis a ſin or no?*

Anſw. There's a Civil Kiſs, and an Uncivil. If the firſt, ſure there's no hart in 'em; if the latter, be your own Judge; for that's a great deal more than looking upon *a Woman*, ἐπιθυμῆσαι αὐτῆς.

Queſt. 2. *Being lately with ſome Friends in a Church-yard, we read this Inſcription on a little Monument againſt the Wall:*

" Sleep on, dear Children, never more to wake,
" Till Chriſt ſhall raiſe you, and to Glory take.

I objected againſt the ſecond Verſe, not that 'twas Nonſenſe, but that the ſenſe was imperfect; others in the Company were of another mind. 'Tis no great matter, but we'll thank you if you'l give your Judgment between us.

Anſw. 'Tis neither Nonſenſe, nor is, we think, the ſenſe imperfect, another way of Conſtruction, and more liberty being taken and given by all Writers in all Languages, in Verſe than Proſe, eſpecially as to *Pronouns* and *Relatives*, wherein conſiſts ſo much of the *Idioms* and difficulty of a Language. We grant, 'tis no clear or exact Expreſſion, yet 'tis intelligible enough, and we think allowable in Poetry.

Queſt. 3. *Whereas there were lately executed two men for the Murder and Robbery of an* Old Woman *near* Spittle-Fields, *and there are now two more taken, and like to be hang'd for the ſame Fact, I deſire to know whether was the greater Fault, killing an uſeleſs Old Hippocrite, or cauſing the Deſtruction of ſo many, and more of her Relatiens, by keeping from them what ſhe made no uſe of her ſelf.*

Anſw. You ſpeak of that barbarous Murder, as if you approved the Fact, nor could one of the Villains concerned expreſt themſelves more tenderly about it: Muſt ſhe be Robb'd and Kill'd becauſe ſhe was *Old*, or becauſe an *Hippocrite*, or becauſe ſhe refuſed to give her money to, perhaps, a parcel of Extravagant *Rake-Hells*, who lov'd her ſo dearly that they cut her Throat for it. But yet more home to the Queſtion: ſuppoſing her really unkind and covetous, *Query*, whether her covetouſneſs and unkindneſs, or their Robbery and Murder were the greateſt ſin? And no queſtion but the latter, Blood being the deepeſt ſtain either to Perſons or Nations.

Queſt. 4. *About two months ſince I made you acquainted with my thoughts about changing my Employment, with my Reaſons for it; and deſired your Opinion and Advice in the matter. I have once ſince that importun'd you for an Anſwer, but I think I might as well have ſpar'd my Labour, for you han't vouchſafed to take the leaſt notice of me. I can't eaſily imagin whence this neglect ſhould proceed, having always obſerved you very compaſſionate to the miſerable, and I think 'tis ſufficiently ſo. I am inclin'd to think the crowd of Queriſts may be the occaſion of your neglecting mine, if it be, I ſend this once more, to try if I can be ſo fortunate to have your Adviſe and Anſwer.*

Anſw. Now if we had the gift of *Conjuring*, con'd we extreamly oblige this Gent. by drawing out his *Solitary Query* among ten thouſand others. But how that ſhou'd be done, or how to find or know his Caſe, unleſs he had been ſo kind to himſelf as to have ſent it again together with his Complaints, we can't well imagin; tho if we had it, 'tis likely we could give him no other Adviſe than what common Prudence dictates. To weigh the Circumſtances of both ſides, the inconveniences and hazards, either in continuing as he is, or in removing to another State of Life, and if that he's in already, be but Tolerable, rather to continue in't, than to venture the Exchanging for a worſe, ſince he knows the inconveniencies of this, but not of another.

Queſt. 5. *Whether* Xenophon *is not ſomewhat out, when talking of* Cyrus *his Empire, he ſaith,* ἀφίκθη πρὸς Ἑῶ τῇ ἐρυθρᾷ θαλάττῃ, πρὸς Ἄρκτον δὲ τῷ Εὐξείνῳ πόντῳ πρὸς ἑσπέραν δὲ, νότῳ, καὶ Αἰγύπτῳ. *For* Cyrus *lies full* Weſt, *as he ſays, of* Babylon; *but how he makes the* Red-Sea *to lie* Eaſtward, *I'm at a ſtand, and would be gladly lifted out on't?*

Anſw. If you had directed to the place, perhaps we might have given a more ſatisfactory ſolution; but as it is take this that follows. It's certain, from all ancient Authors, that the great *Southern*, or *Eaſtern* Ocean is called the *Red Sea*, toward the more *Northerly* part on't, where it waſhes *Arabia* and its confines, and thence quite on to *India*. Hence *Dionyſius* calls it Ἐρυθρὸν τὲ καὶ Αἰθιόπιον. And of this *Red-Sea* the *Arabian-Gulf* (to which only the *Europeans* now give that Name) and the *Perſian*, were formerly accounted parts, as the *Scholiaſt* on *Dionyſius* alſo tells us. Nay, the ſame Author ſeems to affirm, that 'tis ſtill the *Red-Sea*, even as far as the ancient *Taprobane*, otherwiſe Σαλικὴ, as *Euſtatius*, and now *Zeilan*; where the Poet deſcribes Elephants by Land, and Whales to anſwer 'em by Sea, about the Shoars of the Iſlands, calling them, Ἐρυθραίας βοτὰ πόντου, Cattle of the *Erythræan*, or the *Red-Sea*. And this is ſtill more plain, even as to the preſent Queſtion, when he comes to deſcribe the *Gedraſians*, *Carmanians* and *Scythians*, ſtill more Eaſterly than *Perſia*, adding immediately, ἐρυθραίης καταντίον εἶσι θαλάσσης. He makes the River *Indus* run into the *Red-Sea*. Though even this *Red-Sea*, it muſt be granted, is not due *Eaſt* of *Babylon*, bearing rather ſome points to the *South*. But this was a ſmall miſtake among the Ancients, who had at firſt but Four Winds, thoſe we now call the *Cardinal*, *Eaſt*, *Weſt*, *North* and *South*; after which they got Eight more; but our Thirty Two are a much later Invention. So that if the Ancients were but there, or thereabouts, they did not much matter *Critical Exactneſs*, which they had the leſs need of, becauſe in their Navigation they were only Coaſters, never venturing out of ſight of Land, unleſs full againſt their Wills. Another Example of this lax way of Expreſſion in theſe matters, we have in the very paſſage quoted here by the Queriſt out of *Xenophon*, who makes the *Euxine Sea* the *Northern* bounds of *Cyrus*'s Territories; whereas, to ſpeak truth, it lies rather to the *N. Weſt*, at leaſt as much leaning that way as the *Red-Sea* does to the *South* of his Territories, the *Hyrcanian*, or *Caſpian* Sea being rather more full *North* of *Babylon*, which doubtleſs was alſo under his Empire, there being two Rivers called by his Name, running into it, and a *Cyropolis* juſt upon its ſhoars.

Queſt. 6. *I have courted a Young Gentlewoman ſome Years, and have at laſt gain'd her Love, unknown to either of our Parents; for if they underſtood our* Intrigue, *they'd certainly prevent it. If we ſhould marry without their Conſent, we are certainly diſowned and ruined; and to ask it, we know 'tis in vain; and if I talk of leaving her, ſhe cries, ſhe's undone. Pray, your advice what to do in this perplex'd condition?*

Anſw. Poor Tit! 'tis ſo loving 'tis pity to leave it, if you could have her and your Father's Bleſſing together:

ther: But that you can't, and you'd have us help ye: You run your ſelf into inextricable difficulties, and then cry to *Athens* to lug you out again; but in good ſooth we can give ye but ſmall comfort. Should we adviſe your Parents not to value Pelf and Riches, but make a couple of young folks happy that love one another: They'd be ready, ten to one, to wipe with our Sage Morality, and eſteem it juſt as much as you would have done at the beginning of your Amour. All you can do now, that we know of, is to try what power you or your Friends have over 'em; and if they ſtill continue *Marble*, e'ne to ſtay for one another till the Old Folks are in a better place or a better mind.

Advertiſement.

THere is now publiſh'd weekly *Miſcellaneous Letters*, giviug an account of the Works of the Learned both at home and abroad; upon which account the Author of the *Compleat Library* has wholely diſcontinued his *Monthly Journal*. Printed for *William Lindſey*, at the *Angel* near *Lincolns-Inn*, in *Chancery-Lane*. Price 3 *d*.

The Double Chance.

TO be drawn at twice, wherein all that ſhall not have Benefits the firſt drawing, ſhall have their Tickets that ariſe with Blanks, put into the glaſs again, and drawn a ſecond time, in which there will be but about four to one againſt them to recover their money again.

It is ordered by the Truſtees, That the Books ſhall be ſhut up the firſt of *December*, and the Drawing begin the 3d.

There will be given out 50000 Tickets, at 20^{s}. *per* Ticket, to anſwer which 50000 *l*. will be drawn at twice, *viz*. in the Firſt Drawing 40800 *l*. and in the Second Drawing 9200 *l*. to be lotted, *viz*.

Lotts.		*l.*
1		5000
1		2500
1		1500
1		1000
3	of 500 *l*.	1500
6	of 200	1200
50	of 100	5000
60	of 50	3000
60	of 40	2400
150	of 30	4500
300	of 20	6000
400	of 10	4000
400	of 8	3200
Lotts 1433		40800

All the Numbred Tickets ſhall be put into one Glaſs, as uſual, and in the firſt Drawing be drawn againſt 40800 *l*. in the other Glaſs, Lotted, as above, with proportionable Blanks.

All thoſe Numbred Tickets, which ſhall not have the Fortune to ariſe with Benefits in this Firſt Drawing, ſhall be put into one Glaſs a ſecond time; and in the other Glaſs 9000 Benefits of 20 *s*. each, and be drawn again; beſides which 20 *s*. that Number'd Ticket which ariſeth with the Firſt, as alſo that which ariſeth with the Laſt in the other Glaſs, ſhall have 100*l*. each, that is to ſay in the Second Drawing.

It is reſolved to be drawn by the 14th of *December* next, 1694. and if not full, in proportion to what then is full. All when they receive their Benefits, are to abate 10 *l. per cent*. for Trouble and Charges of the undertaking.

We doubt not of ſpeedy filling, not only from conſiderable Sums, which have been ſtopt from other Affairs of this kind to put in here, upon the Rumour of this, but alſo from theſe Advantages above others, *viz*.

Firſt, But about 32 Blanks to a Benefit in the Firſt Drawing.

Secondly, He that draws not a benefit the firſt drawing, hath but about Four to One againſt him, to recover his whole Money in the ſecond drawing, beſides 100*l*. for the Firſt, and 100*l*. for the Laſt Ticket.

Thirdly, He that puts in 100*l*. can be ſaid to adventure but 80*l*. ſince he hath an equal Lay to recover about 20*l*. in the ſecond drawing, and a poſſibility to recover more than all, and yet hath as fair an hit for the great benefits from 100 Tickets as if he really adventur'd 100*l*. and ſo for a greater or leſſer Sum; whereas in others if they draw not a Benefit the firſt time their whole money is loſt.

Fourthly, Whereas it is univerſally objected, that by mixing but a few blanks with benefits, 50000 Tickets cannot be ſo well ſhak'd, but a great number of the ſame muſt ſtill continue at the bottom (that otherwiſe might have a good chance if all were drawn) and ſo impoſſible for them to have a chance, which chiefly occaſion'd the misfortune at *Exeter Change*. Here it is reſolv'd all ſhall be drawn, that both then and after, all may be ſatisfy'd the Tickets they paid their money for, were fairly put in, and fairly drawn.

The time of Drawing is upon each Ticket, with a Bill to return the money if not then drawn, alſo the Goldſmiths hath given Security to be accountable for what Money they receive; in whoſe hands the Money ſhall all lye till drawn, where all are to receive their Benefits.

Since an affair of this kind cannot legally be proſecuted without Licence from the Patentees of the *Royal Oak*, we though fit to incert, that we have a Licence under the Seal of their Office, as may be ſeen at Mr. *Smiths*, next *Bedford gate* in *Charles-ſtreet*, *Covent garden*. And that no Lottery, except one of between 16 and 17000 pounds, is ſo licenſed by them, or will be licenſed till this is drawn.

The following Perſons have pleas'd to promiſe to be preſent, as Truſtees, to ſee to the Fairneſs of the Management, *viz*. The Right Honourable the Earl of *Bullingbrook*, the Earl of *Roſcommon*, the Honourable Collonel *Philip Howard*, Sir *Goddard Nelthorpe* Baronet, Sir *John Morden* Baronet, Sir *James Butler* Knight, Sir *John Mordan* Knight, Capt. *John Marlow*, Capt. *Sam. Weſtall*, Mr. *John Heſter*, Mr. *Mathew Howard*, Mr. *Nicholas Cutler*, Mr. *Elias Turner*, Merchants.

Propoſals and Tickets may be had of Sir *John Sweetapple*, at the *Blackamoors Head*, Mr. *Joſeph Horneby* at the *Star*, Mr. *Henry Lamb* at the *Unicorn*, Mr. *Tho. Williams* at the *Crown*, Mr. *Samuel Layfeild* at the *White Horſe*, Mr. *William Shepherd* at the *Angel*, in *Lombard-ſtreet*; Mr. *John Blunt* the *Golden Anchor*, in St. *Bartholomew-lane*; Capt. *John Paſſil* the *Kings Arms*, Mr. *Ed. Harriſon* the *Hen* and *Chickens*, in *Cheapſide*; Mr. *Ja Marmion*, at *Ram-Alley* end in *Fleetſtreet*; Mr. *John Foden* at the *Three* Flower de luces at *Fetterlane* end, Chpt. *Tho. Pitts* in *Holbourn*; Mr. *Robert Cooper* the *Golden Lyon*, near St. *Clements* Church, Mr. *George Hallet*, the Corner of *York Buildings*; Mr. *Richard Adams* the *Black Horſe*, near *Charing Croſs*; Mr. *Compton*, by *Clare* Market; Mr. *Charles Shelly* in *Panton ſtreet*, and Mr. *Nathaniel Green* near *Leiceſter Fields*; Mr. *Andrew Coleman* over againſt the Kings Brewhouſe by the *Hermitage*, near St. *Catherines*, Goldſmiths; Mr. *Edw. Lloyds* Coffee-Houſe in *Lombardſtreet*; Mr. *Jonathan Milner* in *Popeshead-Alley*; Mr. *George Martin*, at the *Peacock* in *Cornhill*; Mr. *John Ladds*, at the *Three Kings* in *Cheapſide*: Mr. *Ja. Maſhburne*, Mercer at *Oxon*, Mr. *Croſley* at *Briſtol*, Mr. *Rumbold* at *Cambridge*, Mr. *Nicholas Dixon*, next Sr. *Charles Cotterel's* in St. *Martins lane*, Mr. *M. Smith*, in *Covent Garden*. 'Tis deſign'd to be drawn in *Freemans Yard*, or ſome other convenient place. The Prizes will be printed daily as they are drawn.

Marſhal Smith. *Nicholas Dixon.*

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